



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

PUBLIC COMMENTS AT VIRGINIA WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETINGS:

The Board encourages public participation in the performance of its duties and responsibilities. To this end, the Board has adopted public participation procedures for regulatory action and for case decisions. These procedures establish the times for the public to provide appropriate comment to the Board for their consideration.

For **REGULATORY ACTIONS (adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations)**, public participation is governed by the Administrative Process Act and the Board's Public Participation Guidelines. Public comment is accepted during the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action phase (minimum 30-day comment period and one public meeting) and during the Notice of Public Comment Period on Proposed Regulatory Action (minimum 60-day comment period and one public hearing). Notice of these comment periods is announced in the Virginia Register and by mail to those on the Regulatory Development Mailing List. The comments received during the announced public comment periods are summarized for the Board and considered by the Board when making a decision on the regulatory action.

For **CASE DECISIONS (issuance and amendment of permits and consent special orders)**, the Board adopts public participation procedures in the individual regulations which establish the permit programs. As a general rule, public comment is accepted on a draft permit for a period of 30 days. If a public hearing is held, there is a 45-day comment period and one public hearing.

In light of these established procedures, the Board accepts public comment on regulatory actions, as well as general comments, at Board meetings in accordance with the following:

REGULATORY ACTIONS: Comments on regulatory actions are allowed only when the staff initially presents a regulatory action to the Board for **final** adoption. At that time, those persons who participated in the prior proceeding on the proposal (i.e., those who attended the public hearing or commented during the public comment period) are allowed up to 3 minutes to respond to the summary of the prior proceeding presented to the Board. Adoption of an emergency regulation is a final adoption for the purposes of this policy. Persons are allowed up to 3 minutes to address the Board on the emergency regulation under consideration. **NEW INFORMATION** will not be accepted at the meeting. The Board expects comments and information on a regulatory action to be submitted during the established public comment periods. However, the Board recognizes that in **rare** instances new information may become available after the close of the public comment period. To provide for consideration of and ensure the appropriate review of this new information, persons who participated during the prior public comment period **shall** submit the new information to the Department of Environmental Quality (Department) staff contact listed below at least 10 days prior to the Board meeting. The Board's decision will be based on the Department-developed official file and discussions at the Board meeting. Should the Board or Department decide that the new information was not reasonably available during

the prior public comment period, is significant to the Board's decision and should be included in the official file, an additional public comment period may be announced by the Department in order for all interested persons to have an opportunity to participate.

PUBLIC FORUM: The Board schedules a public forum at each regular meeting to provide an opportunity for citizens to address the Board on matters other than pending regulatory actions or pending case decisions. Anyone wishing to speak to the Board during this time should indicate their desire on the sign-in cards/sheet and limit their presentation to not exceed 3 minutes.

The Board reserves the right to alter the time limitations set forth in this policy without notice and to ensure comments presented at the meeting conform to this policy.

Department of Environmental Quality Staff Contact: Cindy M. Berndt, Director, Regulatory Affairs, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 10009, Richmond, Virginia 23240, phone (804) 698-4378; fax (804) 698-4346; e-mail: cmberndt@deq.state.va.us.